

generating mandays of work is expected to be achieved during the remaining period.

(d) An amount of Rs.50.15 crores has been earmarked for the current year and the expenditure is likely to be fully incurred.

Shortcomings in Implementation of IRDP

769. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment be pleased to state :

(a) whether any shortcomings in the implementation of IRDP and such other schemes of the Central Government have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the number of families selected under IRDP and the Yardstick applied in the selection thereof;

(d) whether the families selected did not come within the laid down yardstick; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter and to improve the situation in rural areas to alleviate poverty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The results of the Concurrent Evaluation Survey conducted in 1992-93 revealed that though 54.48% of the families were able to cross the poverty line of Rs.6400, only 15.96% of the families were able to cross the revised poverty line of Rs.11,000. Furthermore, the linkage of IRDP with its allied schemes of TRYSEM and DWCRA was found to be weak.

The results of the Concurrent Evaluation have been intimated to all State Governments for taking corrective action. With a view to making IRDP projects more viable so that a large number of beneficiaries can cross the poverty line, the Ministry has been encouraging higher levels of investment through the Family Credit Plan and group activities. Greater emphasis is being given to proper project formulation and infrastructure development. Efforts are also being made to integrate the TRYSEM and the DWCRA schemes more closely with the main programme of the IRDP.

(c) The total number of families assisted under IRDP during 1995-96 was 20.89 lakh. During the current year 1996-97, 9.9 lakh families were assisted upto December, 1996. The IRDP beneficiaries are selected on the basis of a house to house survey at the beginning of each Five Year Plan to identify families living below the poverty line (BPL). In a given year, the list of families to be selected for assistance is approved by the Gram Sabha in an open general body meeting publicised in advance. The poverty line was defined as annual household income of Rs.11,000 for the BPL Survey for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(d) According to the Concurrent Evaluation Survey for 1992-93 only 4% of the beneficiary families assisted under IRDP had an annual income of more than Rs.11,000. Similarly, about 48 per cent of families were found not to have been selected in Gram Sabha meetings.

(e) In order to make the selection of beneficiaries more participative, objective and transparent the Ministry had issued instructions to all States and UTs after the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution re-emphasising the role of Gram Sabhas and the village community in identification and selection of IRDP beneficiaries.

NTPC/SEBs

770. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total payment due to National Thermal Power Corporation and Central Electricity Authority from each State Electricity Board;

(b) the action initiated by the Government and NTPC to recover their dues;

(c) the reasons for non-payment of dues by the State Electricity Boards;

(d) whether Government are aware that the National Development Council advised to levy a minimum tariff from the farm sector at least to cover operational costs; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the all States follow the above advice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The matter relating to recovery of outstanding dues is being consistently followed up by NTPC with the defaulting States/SEBs. In case of large defaulters, the power supply is also sometimes regulated. NTPC has also introduced a special incentive scheme for prompt payment by SEBs. The Government has, recently decided that supply of power, henceforthwith, should only be against advance payments or opening of irrevocable Letters of Credit. Government of India has also been facilitating NTPC to recover its dues from States through adjustments from devolutions from the Centre to the States.

(c) The reasons for non-payment of dues by SEBs include poor financial health for SEBs, sub-optimal pricing policy followed by most SEBs for supply of electricity, high transmission and distribution losses, including pilferage of electricity and relatively unsatisfactory receivable position of SEBs.

(d) The National Development Council has not given any such advice in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.